

112 State Street
 Drawer 20
 Montpelier, VT 05620-2701
 Tel.: (802) 828-2358



TTY/TDD (VT): 1-800-734-8390
 Fax: (802) 828-3351
 E-Mail: clerk@psb.state.vt.us
 Internet: http://www.state.vt.us/psb

State of Vermont
 Public Service Board

7117

September 23, 2002

Ms. Marlene **H.** Dortch
 Office of the Secretary
 Federal Communications Commission
 445-12th Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554

Irene Flannery, Vice President
 Universal Service Administrative Company
 2120 L Street, NW, Suite 600
 Washington, DC 20037

Re: CC Docket 96-45 - Annual Certification of Rural Carriers

Dear Ms. Dortch and **Ms.** Flannery:

In accordance with 47 CFR § 54.314, I hereby certify that all federal high-cost funds flowing to the nine Vermont Independent telephone companies (Independents) listed below will be used in 2003 in a manner consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e) for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which support is intended.

Federal support to the Independents will be available as general revenue to the Independents. As always, these companies may have their rates increased or decreased by the Public Service Board. In addition, the Independents will continue to file information pertaining to their usage of federal support in the past for facilities and services.

The Public Service Board has also directed that the Independents give annual notices to customers describing details of federal support and its effects on customer rates. In the future, the Board may require the Independents to convert federal support into explicit credits.

This certification applies to the companies shown in the following table.

No. of Copies rec'd _____
 List ABCDE

SAC	Company
140053 140058	Franklin Telephone Company
140058 140061	Ludlow Telephone Company
140061 140062	Northfield Telephone Company
140062 140064	Perkinsville Telephone Company
140064 140068	Shoreham Telephone Company, Inc.
140068 140069	Topsham Telephone Company, Inc.
140069	Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Co., Inc., d/b/a Waitsfield Telecom, d/b/a Champlain Valley Telecom.
143331	STE/NE Acquisition Corp., d/b/a Northland Telephone Company of Vermont
147332	Vermont Telephone Company, Inc.. d/b/a VTel

Vermont greatly appreciates the Commission's willingness to provide support to the intrastate jurisdiction so that Independent telephone customers in Vermont may have telephone rates that are more nearly comparable to those charged in urban areas of our nation.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Dworkin
Chairman

cc: Lawrence Lackey (Vt. DPS)
Paul Phillips, Esq.